

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being added.

Claim 1 is currently being amended.

Claims 8-11, 19-21, 23 and 24 are currently being canceled.

This amendment and reply cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3-7, 12, 15-18 and 22 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claim 12 is allowed, and the fact that claim 24 would be allowable if that claim was amended to place that claim in independent form. Due to the amendments made to independent claim 1 to include the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 24, independent claim 1 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 24. Claims 3-7, 15-18 and 22 depend ultimately from claim 1, and thus those claims are also now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 18, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0015446 to Inoue in view of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication 2000-323495 to Shinji; claim 4 was rejected under

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Shinji and Tan et al. (“The Effect of Dielectric Stress on the Electrical Characteristics of AlGa_N/Ga_N Heterostructure Field Effect Transistors”); claims 5, 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Shinji and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,483,135 to Mizuta et al.; claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Shinji and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0020092 to Parikh et al.; claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Tan et al.; claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Shinji and Mizuta et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0017370 to Sheppard et al.; and claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Shinji and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0043697 to Hirokawa. Due to the amendments made to independent claim 1 so that it now includes the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 24, and due to the fact that the other presently pending claims under rejection depend ultimately from claim 1, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

All of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

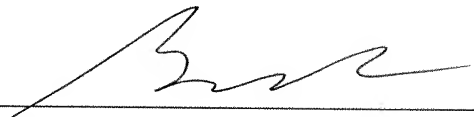
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected

or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/16/2011

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6014
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

George C. Beck
Registration No. 38,072

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819